

Meadow Brown *Maniola jurtina* (L.) (Lep.: Nymphalidae): and early and a late record in Staffordshire

On 10 May 2002, my friend R. H. Heath observed a male Meadow Brown on the wing in a meadow at Blythe Bridge, Staffordshire – a most early date for this species. Then, at the other end of the year, a very worn male came to feed on my yellow-flowering buddleia at Meir, on 22 September 2002. The latter was a warm sunny day, and there were a few Red Admirals *Vanessa atalanta* also present. The last time that I saw Meadow Brown on the wing at such a late date was in the year of the very hot summer – 1976 – when I noted one in late September on Barlaston Rough Close, also in Staffordshire.– JAN KORYSZKO, 3 Dudley Place, Meir, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire ST3 7AY.

***Acleris hyemana* (Haw.) (Lep.: Tortricidae): the first confirmed record in Buckinghamshire (VC 24)**

Taken at light on the night of 27.ii.2003 in my garden in Fenny Stratford, Milton Keynes, was a single *Acleris* sp. which, at first glance, I could not identify. Having at my disposal a copy of *Die Tortriciden Mitteleuropas* (Razowski, 2001), I attempted an initial identification, but it soon became obvious my limited experience hampered any exact determination.

I posted an image of the specimen to the UKMoths Yahoo! eGroup forum at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ukmoths>, asking for more experienced lepidopterists to assist with identification. Amongst the replies I received was one from John Langmaid, asking if I lived near any “heathy” area, as his tentative identification was *Acleris hyemana* (Haw.) I replied that indeed I did, living only a couple of miles away from the edge of the Greensand Ridge around the Brickhill area. I subsequently retained the specimen, at the request of Martin Albertini, the Buckinghamshire County Moth recorder, as it could be a new vice-county record. Martin also asked me to take it to the Hertfordshire Moth Group Annual Indoor Meeting, which he was attending. A number of eminent people in attendance looked over the specimen, however, as reasonably expected, no one would commit to a positive determination without further reference. I informed John of the situation with the specimen, and we arranged for me to visit him soon after. John referenced his specimens and very quickly determined *A. hyemana*, a new VC24 record, to my obvious relief after travelling to the south coast from Milton Keynes, a round trip of about 220 miles!

It is interesting to note that *A. hyemana* is not recorded in the neighbouring counties of Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Middlesex and Northamptonshire. On further investigation, only one record is known in Oxfordshire and a single recent reliable record in Berkshire (although other historical records are noted), courtesy of Martin Corley and Martin Harvey, the respective county moth recorders. Martin Corley informs me that “The only Oxfordshire record known to me is that in a manuscript list of Lepidoptera by W. Holland and A. H. Hamm, compiled around m

1905 for a proposed Victoria County History (which did not appear until many years afterwards). This was simply given as 'Binfield'. This locality is in Berkshire, east of Reading. I doubt if they got this wrong: the record probably refers to Binfield Heath, which is just north of Reading. It is not clear who found it, although it might have been Holland or Hamm themselves, nor is there any date. I would guess that it was collected by Holland (a remarkably talented and dedicated lepidopterist) before 1893 when he moved to Oxford."

Martin Harvey notes that, "David White recorded it on 8.ii.2002 from Wildmoor Heath, a Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust nature reserve near Bracknell, VC22, a single adult found by day among heather.

Brian Baker (1994. *The Butterflies And Moths Of Berkshire*. Hedera Press), lists several other records, all from the central/west Berkshire heaths (all VC22): Wokingham, Mortimer, Burghfield, Padworth and Newbury from the Victoria County History (published 1906), and then from Aldermaston in 1978, 1985 and 1986. Brian did not include Holland's 'Binfield' record – Binfield is in VC22 and modern Berkshire, but as Martin (Corley) says this may well refer to Binfield Heath, which is in VC23 and modern Oxfordshire"

My sincere thanks go to Martin Corley and Martin Harvey for their accounts of local records in Oxfordshire and Berkshire, and to John Langmaid for inviting me to visit him at home to determine the record.– L. J. HILL, 75 Eaton Avenue, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK2 2HN.

Non-coastal *Tetramorium caespitum* (L.) in Scotland

Tetramorium caespitum (L.) Hym: Formicidae has recently been recorded on or near the coast in three east coast localities in Scotland: North Berwick Law, East Lothian in 1997, Arthur's Seat, Edinburgh in 1998 (*Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan, 2000*) and St Abb's Head (Collingwood & Hughes pers. obs. 1988). There are also pre-1961 records from Bass Rock, East Lothian (1913) and for the islands of Ailsa Craig, Arran and Canna on the west coast of Scotland (*Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan, 2000*; Barrett, 1979: *Provisional Atlas of the Insects of the British Isles: Part 5 Hymenoptera: Formicidae* ITE, Monks Wood.)

On 30 May 2002, a small colony of *T. caespitum* was discovered on the south facing slopes of Moncreiffe Hill Wood (O.S. grid reference NO 152192), a Woodland Trust Scotland owned and managed property on the outskirts of Perth, Perth and Kinross. This record is notable as the first inland record for *T. caespitum* in Scotland. The site is 45 miles from the east coast and more than 15 miles from open estuary in the Firth of Tay. Moncreiffe Hill is an igneous escarpment, largely composed of andesite lava, containing many rocky outcrops with patches of neutral to basic, thin, stony soils. This habitat is physically similar to the other localities for *T. caespitum* in Scotland which at this northern limit in the UK, appears to demand relatively warm, well drained ground on which to found colonies.